

Whitehall Street Ferry Terminal  
11 South St.  
New York City  
New York County  
New York

HAER No. NY-90

HAER  
NY,  
31-NE40,  
146 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

NY-90

MUNICIPAL FERRY PIER  
(Battery Maritime Building)

Date: 1909

Location: 11 South St. New York City, New York Co. NY

Designed by: Richard Walker and Charles Morris, Architects  
Frederick Snare, Engineer.

Owner: Original: New York Department of Docks and Ferries.  
Present: City of New York, Department of Marine and  
Aviation.

Significance: The municipal Ferry pier is the last remaining ferry terminal  
on the East River and shows the expression of the beaux arts  
style in structural steel.

Transmitted by: Daniel Clement 1983, with historical data drawn from the  
National Register of Historic Places file.

Built in 1909 as the Municipal Ferry Pier for the line connecting Manhattan with South Brooklyn, the Battery Maritime Building is the last remaining ferry terminal on the East River. Designed by the architectural firm of Walker and Morris, the massive structure is a significant expression of the Beaux Art style in steel, as well as an illustration of civic architecture in New York City at the turn of the century.

The building is rectangular in plan measuring 250 feet in length by approximately 140 ft. in width. Three rounded arches on the south elevation shelter three ferry slips. Constructed of riveted steel plates and girders the south facade contains numerous boldly expressed motifs (steel rosettes, decorative scrolls) that enhance the wall surface. The north, or street, elevation is characterized by a tall open portico supported by five steel arches bearing on stone piers. Six pairs of square tapering steel columns with ornate capitals and brackets support a hipped roof above the portico.

During the mid-twentieth century an additional story for offices was built atop the terminal, not in keeping with the original design. The original waiting room, although still intact has been divided, through the use of moveable partitions, into office and storage space for the buildings present owner. A small area on the ground floor has been addapted for use as a waiting area (photograph 10).